

WFP Myanmar Country Brief

WFP Assistance

| Supporting Transition by Reducing Food Insecurity and Undernutrition among the Most Vulnerable | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | 6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| PRRO 200299 (Jan 2013 – Dec 2017) | 343 m | 214 m (62%) | 8.7 m (38%) |

*March 2017 – August 2017

GENDER MARKER **2A**  PRRO 200299

In 2015, WFP extended its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which was launched in January 2013, until the end of 2017 to harmonise it with the work of the United Nations Country Team. The current PRRO contributes to more equitable development and supports national reconciliation by reducing poverty, food insecurity and undernutrition, responding to disasters and increasing resilience among the most vulnerable. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals and the Zero Hunger Challenge, the specific objectives of the PRRO are to: 1) prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other shocks in support of the Government; 2) assist post-disaster recovery by rehabilitating productive assets to improve household food security and create socio-economic opportunities for the most vulnerable; 3) address undernutrition among children and pregnant women and nursing mothers (PNM), and support at-risk groups such as people living with HIV (PLHIV) and tuberculosis (TB) clients; 4) improve access, enrolment and attendance to primary schools; and 5) improve the sustainability of responses to food insecurity and undernutrition through knowledge-sharing and capacity development.

WFP aims to reach its objectives through five major activities:

Relief – WFP has been providing life-saving food assistance to 280,000 people displaced and/or affected by conflicts, violence and natural disasters. Both in 2015 and 2016, WFP assisted people affected by floods. As of September 2016, WFP has reached 179,520 flood victims with food and cash assistance, in Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway and Mandalay Regions and in Rakhine State. WFP and FAO co-lead the Food Security Sector (FSS) since 2014, which has been responding to food and/or cash needs of people affected by ethnic conflicts and natural disasters.

Highlights

- Security operations ceased in the northern part of Rakhine State. WFP assisted 25,000 people in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships most affected by the security operations.
- WFP successfully launched a pilot project exploring the use of mobile financial services in the delivery of cash assistance to displaced people in Kachin State.
- Conflicts continued to impede WFP's assistance to vulnerable and food-insecure people in areas beyond Government control in Kachin and Shan States.

Nutrition – Linking with the national health system and in line with the national protection scheme, WFP provides nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive support for 140,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers and malnourished young children.

HIV/TB programme – As balanced nutrition is pivotal for people living with HIV or TB clients to keep their immune system strong in order to fight the diseases. WFP provides food-by-prescription to 23,000 PLHIV and TB clients aiming to enhance their adherence and treatment success.

Community Asset Creation – WFP strengthens community resilience by creating community infrastructures and providing 200,000 people with either cash or food in exchange for participating in asset creation activities.

School Feeding – In support of the country's National Social Protection Strategic Plan and the 2016-2021 National Educational Strategic Plan, WFP and the Ministry of Education have started working towards nationalisation of the school feeding programme from the 2015/16 academic year onwards. WFP aims to feed half a million school children in the 2016/17 academic year.

Furthermore, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development, has completed Food Security and Poverty Estimation surveys in 2015 and is developing the country's first-ever Food Security Atlas, contributing to the advancement of national food security and poverty reduction policies and strategies. WFP has also supported the Government in establishing nine resource centres across the country, enhancing national capacity of sustainable food security monitoring.

In Numbers (February 2017)

480,214 people in need of food assistance

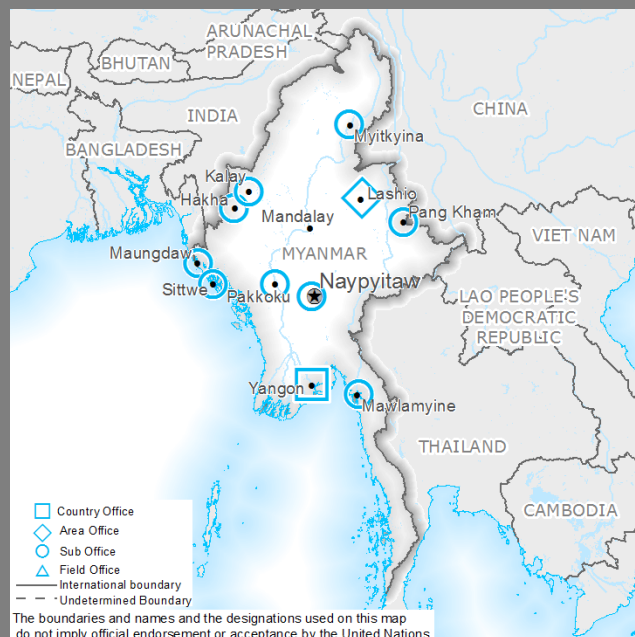
530,273
people assisted



Operational Updates

- Five months after the attacks on the border guard police outposts in the northern part of Rakhine State in October 2016, the Government's security operations reportedly came to a halt in February. WFP continued to assist food-insecure populations in all regular WFP operational areas prior to the security incidents on 9 October, as well as newly affected populations. Twenty-five thousand food-insecure people were assisted in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships, who had their houses burnt or destroyed, were displaced, or were the most food-insecure, such as orphans or households headed by women or elderly people.
- In central Rakhine, to meet the needs of the increase in newly displaced people, WFP identified new food distribution points that were more spacious and neutral in the central part of the state. These new sites were planned to reduce opportunity costs for people in need of food assistance who had to endure long waiting times, lengthy travel distances and high transportation costs.
- From 27 February to 1 March, WFP launched a pilot project in Kachin State, testing the feasibility of using of mobile financial services to deliver humanitarian assistance. The first disbursements of cash assistance to displaced people were completed without technical issues and reached 112 households, or 495 people, who received assistance via accounts on their mobile phones, known as e-wallets. The launch of the pilot project marked the first ever application of mobile financial technology in a humanitarian context in Myanmar, capitalising on the country's rapid development in telecommunications. This technology promises to increase the safety, reliability and ease of cash assistance to displaced people, and enable greater financial inclusion for some of the country's most vulnerable populations.
- In Kachin State, clashes between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and government forces continued to inhibit WFP's ability to provide life-saving food assistance to vulnerable and food-insecure populations in areas beyond government control. Due to the intensified fighting, a large movement of displaced people fled from areas controlled by the KIA to government-controlled areas. In February, 501 people were newly displaced, bringing the total number of displaced people having fled non-government controlled areas since January to 2,242.
- Food assistance in northern Shan State continued to be affected by the ongoing conflicts in the region between ethnic armed organisations and the Government. While the security situation remained unstable in Kokang Self-Administered Zone in northern Shan State, the Government allowed WFP to deliver food to the area during the first week of February, which was sufficient for nearly two months' worth of distributions. However, after the conflict resumed in the second week of February, access was once again restricted.
- At the beginning of February, WFP estimated 480,214 people to be in the need of food assistance. As access issues—which had continuously impeded the delivery of food assistance to a number of areas—improved, WFP was able to assist 530,273 people across Myanmar. This was mainly due to the reopening of schools, which could once again receive nutritious biscuit snacks for students through WFP's school feeding activities.

Country Background & Strategy



Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia. The nation's economy is one of the least developed in the world and is suffering the effects of extended isolation and stagnation. Thirteen million people, or 26 percent, of Myanmar's population live below the poverty line and three million people are spending a high percentage of their limited income on food with a restricted diet that does not meet all their consumption needs.

Development in Myanmar is being compromised by prolonged ethnic conflicts and intercommunal violence since its independence in 1948, resulting in massive displacements of people. In terms of education, according to the latest statistics, the net enrolment rate in primary schools is close to 88 percent, and 75 percent of children starting grade 1 reaches grade 5, the last grade of primary school. However, the net completion rate is only 54 percent.

The country's vulnerability to natural disasters and the Government's poor emergency response capacity affect its socio-economic progress. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a landslide victory in the general election in November 2015. A new cabinet led by the first civilian president since five decades ago has taken power on 1 April 2016.

WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in northern Rakhine State and established its office in 1994. Currently WFP operates from the Country Office in Yangon, a representative office in capital Nay Pyi Taw, three Area Offices and six Sub-Offices.

Population: **51.4 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **148 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **35% of children under the age of five**

Donors

Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Global Fund, Italy, Japan, JAWFP, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K, UN CERF, U.S.A. and private sector.

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